



## Office of the President

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Dear <First\_name>,

As president of Wayne State University, I've enjoyed telling you about the great things happening on our campus. But I'm equally excited about what Wayne State is doing throughout Detroit. I believe our role as a community leader is just as important as our position as a top-tier research university.

Our location in the heart of a major city offers numerous unique service opportunities. No, Detroit is not a traditional college town, but thanks to Wayne State's presence here for 150 years, it could easily be considered a college city. Our university plays a vital role in the education, health and support of Detroit's residents, setting a precedent for how "town and gown" can best collaborate.

This has always been an essential part of our identity. In 1967, Wayne State established the Center for Urban Studies to understand and help alleviate the challenges that metropolitan areas face. Today, this organization continues to leverage our position as an urban research institution to understand the complex factors that impact every city.

We also advocate for our fellow Detroiters. For more than 50 years, Wayne State law students have operated the Detroit Free Legal Aid Clinic Inc., providing legal representation to approximately 300 people each year who are experiencing barriers to justice. For nearly 20 years and at two metro Detroit locations, our students have provided legal guidance to senior citizens, victims of abuse, non-English speakers, individuals with disabilities and residents from low-income households. For those who cannot afford representation, this clinic has played an essential role in helping them navigate the legal system and get much-needed assistance.

Even as Detroit undergoes an historic revitalization, it still faces challenges present in every major city, including a homeless population in need of medical care. Street Medicine Detroit exists to meet that need. This initiative — one of 100 outreach programs at the School of Medicine — brings students out of the classroom and onto the streets to build relationships with homeless individuals at local churches, shelters and soup kitchens. Volunteers provide clinical care, promote health literacy, facilitate housing, and treat individuals with diabetes and other chronic illnesses. As they prepare for careers in medicine, it's important for our students to have this opportunity to interact with Detroit's most vulnerable populations.

Universities have a mission to shape the next generation — something that happens in Detroit classrooms every day, and not just our own. Wayne State is host to a number of programs that help prepare local elementary, middle and high school students for college and beyond. One such program is Math Corps, a summer mentoring and enrichment program that's offered at no charge to students. Math Corps teaches math skills and vital life lessons to middle and high school students, bolstering their intellect as well as their confidence. This has a tremendous impact — students who averaged 30 percent in pre-tests averaged 90 percent in post-tests at the end of the course. In 2016, the National Science Foundation awarded Math Corps nearly \$3 million to replicate the program in other areas of the country.

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That's not the only way we reach local students. TeachDETROIT provides hands-on educational experience in classrooms to College of Education students while also supporting the needs of Detroit Public Schools. In this 15-month residency program, students work in classrooms throughout the city to educate local kids while preparing for teaching success. We also host a variety of programs like STEM Day and GO-GIRL that engage students in fun and immersive ways. As our nation faces a need for students equipped with science, technology, engineering and mathematics knowledge, Wayne State is committed to showcasing the exciting educational and career opportunities that exist in these fields.

Changing our world begins right outside our front door. I'm proud of Wayne State's commitment to Detroit, and I'm eager to see it grow. I believe we have a lot to learn from our colleagues, and I hope you'll share the work your institution is doing in your local community. Perhaps this can lead to great opportunities for collaboration.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Roy Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

M. Roy Wilson  
President, Wayne State University